

would be through Bombay. But we are given some programme from Goa. Even now some programmes come from Goa. We shall certainly consider his suggestions.

MR.SPEAKER: Q.No. 174 Shrimati Jhansi Lakshmi - Not here. Q.No. 175 - Shri Satya Gopal Misra - He is also not present. Q.No. 176 - Shri Baju Ban Riyan.

Setting up of Paper Mill In Tripura

*176. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received the Project report submitted by Tripura Government for setting up a paper mill in Tripura; and

(b) if so, when the project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN: Sir, I am unable to understand why the Government is refusing to set up an industry in Tripura State. The reply given by the hon. Minister is confusing. The only possible industry that can be considered in Tripura is the forest-based industry. Paper industry is a forest-based industry and Tripura is rich in forest wealth. So, I would like to know from the Government whether they will consider to set up a Paper mill in Tripura with a view to

creating employment potential there. As the hon. Minister is aware, Tripura is one of the State where there is no industry, whether large scale industry or medium scale industry run by public sector or the private party.

SHRI. M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, the answer is very clear that the Government have not received any proposal from the State Government. Regarding paper industry, the State Government engaged a private consultancy for setting up a paper industry there. But the private consultancy agency has said that it is not feasible to set up a paper industry in that area. Therefore, the State Government has given up that proposal. Regarding other industries, if any proposal comes up, we will definitely consider that.

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN: I would like to know whether it is a fact that there are some forest wealth like bamboo and soft wood which are being used in the paper mills in Silchar. If it is so, I would like to know whether bamboo and other forest wealth cannot be used in Tripura.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): Sir, in North-Eastern States, we have an investment to the tune of Rs. 800 crores on the public sector paper plants. In Tuli, Nagaland, the paper mills have the capacity of 33,000 tonnes, in Nowgong paper Mills in Assam there is a capacity of one lakh tonnes and in Cachar Paper Mills, Assam, there is a capacity of one lakh tonnes. Now, because of the location, the Government has been incurring loss every year nearly more than Rs. 100 crores. There is a lot of investment made there and there is no need for another public sector paper unit there.